

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 INT-05 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /123 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8429

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1452

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, MA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: STATE 204517

SUMMARY. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL WHO ATTENDED COLOMBO CONFERENCE STATED THAT "WE ("PROGRESSIST" COUNTRIES) GOT WHAT WE WANTED." HE ACKNOWLEDGED STRONG PUERTO RICAN EFFORT AT COLOMBO, BUT DID NOT REVEAL ANY PARTICULARLY INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO MECHANICS OF THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS MET SEPTEMBER 10 WITH HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO, DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AT MFA AND PARTICIPANT AT COLOMBO CONFERENCE. (RAZAFINDRATOVO HAD BEEN ABSENT FROM MADAGASCAR FOR MOST OF THE PERIOD FOLLOWING COLOMBO CONFERENCE UNTIL WE SAW HIM.)

2. RAZAFINDRATOVO COMMENTED, WHEN ASKED FOR HIS OVERALL IMPRESSIONS OF COLOMBO MEETING, THAT "WE GOT EVERYTHING WE WANTED." PRESUMABLY, HE REFERRED TO OBJECTIVES OF "PROGRESSIST" COUNTRIES, BUT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO PIN HIM
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DOWN AS TO WHAT THEIR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE VIS-A-VIS

CONFERRNCE'S RESULTS. ON PUERTO RICO, HE NOTED THAT INDEPENDISTAS WERE EVERYWHERE AND PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA MATERIAL TO CONFERENCE DELEGATES. HE OBSERVED THAT INDEPENDISTAS MUST HAVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM SOME SOURCE, DESPITE US CLAIMS THAT THEIR SUPPORT FROM WITHIN PUERTO RICO IS MINIMAL. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT CUBA ACTIVELY SUPPORTS INDEPENDISTAS, BUT RAZAFINDRATOVO APPEARED TO STRESS MORE OF INDEPENDISTA'S ROLE AT COLOMBO RATHER THAN CUBAN EFFORT.

3. ON KOREA, RAZAFINDRATOVO SAID THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE VERY ACTIVE BUT, HE ASSERTED, DID NOT DISTURB OTHER DELEGATIONS BY HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS. HE NOTED SIMPLY THAT NAM ACHIEVED ITS OBJECTIVE RE KOREA.

4. ALTHOUGH HE TACITLY ACKNOWLEDGED NUMEROUS DISAGREEMENTS AT COLOMBO, RAZAFINDRATOVO SOUGHT TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT NAM SEEMINGLY COHERENT GROUP AND THAT "PROGRESSIST" ELEMENTS AMONG NAM ARE THE LEADERS IN THE THINKING OF THE NAM.

5. COMMENT.SINCE MALAGASY POSITIONS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES INVARIABLY FOLLOW "PROGRESSIST" LINE, EMBOFFS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ATTEMPTING TO PENETRATE PERSONAL ATTITUDES OF MFA OFFICIALS OR IN OBTAINING INCISIVE VIEWS OF THOSE OFFICIALS ON WORKINGS OF VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. THESE OFFICIALS, WHOSE STAYING-POWER IS NOTEWORTHY, MERELY GLOSS OVER DIFFERENCES AND RARELY REFER TO HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS WHICH MAY BE VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE. HOWEVER, RAZAFINDRATOVO WAS CLEARLY IMPRESSED BY EXTENT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDISTAS' ACTIVITIES AT COLOMBO SO THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY UNABLE TO EVALUATE THE TWO SIDES. WE CAN THEREFORE NOT EXPECT ANY HELP FROM MADAGASCAR ON SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICO IF US-EDUCATED MFA OFFICIAL CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT WHAT IS PAST PUERTO RICAN HISTORY AS FACT.

6. GDRM ATTITUDE BOTH TOWARD EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF COLOMBO CONFERENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS GROUPS AT CONFERENCE WAS PREDICTABLE AND NOT ESPECIALLY REVEALING.SHEINBAUM

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